

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-13 and 44-56 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 44, and 55 are amended, and claim 56 is added.

I. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

A. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10-13, 44-47, 49-51, and 53-55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dalal (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0014488) in view of Katz (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0158745).

To expedite prosecution, independent claim 1 is amended to delineate, *inter alia*:

the one site system provides the plurality of conference participants with (i) a display of a set of workspaces relevant to the plurality of conference participants and (ii) a display of reference information managed in a workspace selected by the plurality of conference participants on the condition that a plurality of conference participants log into one site system,

the shared workspace server established a session between different site systems on the condition that a plurality of conference participants log into different site systems and the plurality of conference participants selects the same workspace, the different site systems share input/output interfaces with application software by connecting electronic whiteboards of the different site systems to the shared workspace server, ...

Independent claims 44 and 55 are amended to delineate similar subject matter.

Support for "... on the condition that a plurality of conference participants log into different site systems *and the plurality of conference participants selects the same workspace*" can be found in, for example, Figs. 22 and 23 of Applicants' application.

Applicants submit that Katz does not disclose or suggest "the shared workspace server established a session between different site systems on the condition that a plurality of conference participants log into different site systems *and the plurality of conference participants selects the same workspace*, the different site systems share input/output interfaces with application software by connecting electronic whiteboards of the different site systems to the shared workspace server, as delineated in independent claim 1, 44, and 55.

Dalal also does not disclose this subject matter. Therefore, independent claims 1, 44, and 55 are patentable over Dalal and Katz.

Because claims 3, 4, 6, 8, and 10-13 depend from independent claim 1, and claims 45-47, 49-51, 53, and 54 depend from independent claim 44, they are patentable over Dalal and Katz for at least the reason(s) discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Further, regarding dependent claim 6, as delineated in claim 1, a shared workspace (is) server configured to manage all the workspaces and each site system provides a conference participant with a display of a set of workspaces relevant to the conference participant when the conference participant logs into the site system. The identification information of paragraph [0030] of Dalal is user identification information created *when a conference is created*. Dalal does not describe that the shared workspace server is configured *to select an already created workspace* based on user identification information, as delineated in claim 6.

Regarding dependent claim 11, the shared workspace server is further configured to, in a case where the file specified in the file reference request is not previously registered in the workspace, temporarily register the file specified in the file reference request. In paragraphs [0057] and [0058] of Dalal, which the Office Action relies upon as disclosing the features of claim 11, all references to the word *temporary* are with respect to *users*, not to a file. Dalal does not disclose temporary registering of files that have not been previously registered within the workspace.

Thus, claims 6 and 11 are patentable over Dalal and Katz for reason in addition to their depending directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, which is patentable over these references. In view of the above, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10-13, 44-47, 49-51, and 53-55 are respectfully solicited.

B. Claims 7, 9, 48, and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dalal in view of Katz, and further in view of Kisliakov (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0178833).

Kisliakov does not remedy the deficiencies of Dalal and Katz. Because claims 7 and 8 depend from independent claim 1, and claims 48 and 50 depend from independent claim 44, they are patentable over Dalal, Katz, and Kisliakov for at least the reason(s) discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of claims 7, 9, 48, and 50 are respectfully solicited.

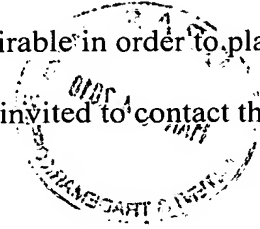
II. New Claims

New dependent claim 56 is submitted and corresponds to previously canceled claim 32. None of the applied references discloses or suggests "each site system comprises a metadata manager and a presentation controller, and each metadata manager is configured to use terminal information transmitted from the presentation controller and to record a terminal ID, a user ID and a use start time in association with each other." Therefore, the allowance of claim 56 is respectfully solicited.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James A. Oliff".

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